

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /100 W

-----059960 010624Z /64

R 310052Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9208

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 05196

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PINT, PO, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT TO MEXICO BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
DELEGATION

1. SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) DELEGATION LED BY PRIME
MINISTER OF PORTUGAL MARIO SOARES VISITED MEXICO CITY
MARCH 16 AND 17. SOARES AND THE DELEGATION MET WITH THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MEXICAN INSTITUTIONAL REVOLU-
TIONARY PARTY (PRI) WHICH IS AND HAS BEEN THE OVER-
WHELMINGLY DOMINANT MEXICAN POLITICAL PARTY FOR THE LAST
FIFTY YEARS; LONGTIME MEXICAN LABOR MOVEMENT STRONGMAN,
FIDEL VELAZQUEZ, FOREIGN SECRETARY SANTIAGO ROEL, AND BOTH
HOUSES OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS. SOARES ALSO HAD A THIRTY
MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO. THE
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DELEGATION DID NOT MEET WITH ANY OF THE WEAK MEXICAN
SOCIALIST PARTIES.

2. IN HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE PRI, CONGRESS, AND THE PRESS
SOARES PREDICTED THAT SOCIALISM WOULD BE THE POLITICAL
WAVE OF THE FUTURE AND THE SALVATION FOR LATIN AMERICA.
HE TRACED THE SIMILARITIES OF GOALS BETWEEN THE SI AND THE

PRI BUT WAS CAREFUL TO AVOID TOO CLOSE OF A COMPARISON. VARIOUS PRI LEADERS ALSO ALLUDED TO THE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE PRI AND THE SI BUT WERE VERY CAREFUL TO STRESS THE UNIQUENESS OF THE PRI IN TERMS OF ITS HISTORY AND NON-IDEOLOGY" COMMENTS SUCH AS "THE PRI ISN'T SEEKING A NEW IDEOLOGY" AND "THE PRI ISN'T SOCIALIST OR ANTI-SOCIALIST" ABOUNDED.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESS COVERAGE ON THE VISIT WAS FAVORABLE TO BOTH SOARES AND THE SI AND THE VISIT WAS FAIRLY LOW KEY. SOARES AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AND IN ALL PUBLIC APPEARANCES ACTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF SI AND NOT AS THE LEADER OF PORTUGAL. IF THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS, AS SOARES STATED, SOLELY TO INTERCHANGE POLITICAL EXPERIENCES AND NOT TO ESTABLISH AN ACCORD WITH THE PRI, THE VISIT WAS A SUCCESS. IF THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO ATTEMPT TO TIE THE PRI TO THE SI, IT WAS A FAILURE AS THE MEXICANS WERE VERY CLEAR IN AVOIDING ANY TYPE OF IDENTIFICATINN OF THE PRI WITH THE SI. LUCEY

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